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Lambda Letters Project

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Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Issue

Support Domestic Partner Benefits for Federal Employees

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

The State of California has made domestic partner health benefits available to its employees since the January 2000. Now a bill has been introduced in Congress to provide similar benefits to federal government employees. Urge your representative to do everything possible to get it moving.

The bill is HR 638. It was introduced by Representative Barney Frank, D of Massachusetts. The bill has 57 cosponsors, including 12 from the California delegation (Table I).

HR 638 was referred to two committees in the House of Representatives in March and nothing much has happened to it since. The Committees are the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, of the House Government Reform Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

AB 638 would, in general, provide to domestic partners the benefits available to and the obligations imposed upon the spouses of federal government employees. The benefits would include access to retirement benefits, group life and health insurance, and

Table I

California Cosponsors of HR 638

Sponsor	District	District Office
Howard Berman	D-26	Mission Hills
Bob Filner	D-50	Chula Vista
Tom Lantos	D-12	San Mateo
Barbara Lee	D-9	Oakland
Robert Matsui	D-5	Sacramento
George Miller	D-7	Concord
Nancy Pelosi	D-8	San Francisco
Hilda Solis	D-31	El Monte
Pete Stark	D-13	Fremont
Ellen O. Taucher	D-10	Walnut Creek
Henry Waxman	D-29	Los Angeles
Lynn Woolsey	D-6	Santa Rosa

compensation for work injuries. This last benefit would provide for compensation to the domestic partner of a federal employee, under certain circumstances, if the employee was disabled or killed on the job.

AB 638 also provides a definition of domestic partnership and stipulates how federal employees may register their domestic partnerships and how to record the ending of such a relationship.

I think AB 638 is a wonderful bill. Obviously the passage of such a bill by Congress would move our whole movement forward light years. Please write to your member of Congress. Let's thank those who are cosponsoring the bill and ask all our representatives to push for passage of the bill. ###

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

August, 2001	21,458 letters & e-mails
In all of 2001	106,033 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

August, 2001	\$3,248
In all of 2001	\$33,404

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Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

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Waging Peace

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

If ever there were a land of tears, it is Afghanistan. Afghanistan is among the poorest nations in the world. Its average annual income is about \$800. There is virtually no industry. Only 10% of its land can be farmed and hunger is widespread. Its girls are not allowed to go to school and its women may not work.

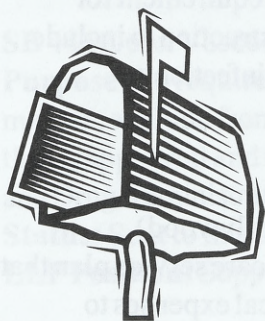
Even widows are not allowed to work to support themselves and their children. And the country has had two decades of war so there are lots of widows. For most of the 1980s the Soviet Union tried to occupy the country. The United States backed the Islamic groups in Afghanistan who opposed the Soviet occupation. We gave these groups money, guns, anti-aircraft missiles, and cannons to fight the occupying forces. In the end the Soviets left. They suffered large losses in men and materials. However, the people of Afghanistan suffered much more from the battle between the two super powers over their little nation.

But the fighting wasn't over. For four more years the country suffered through a civil war before the Taliban took over much of the country. Now Afghanistan has few hospitals, or schools, or public services of any sort. Its economy is in shreds. And we are about to continue their suffering.

The President has more information than we do and it is arguably right that we must take military action in that troubled land. But the history of it all, much less common human compassion, suggests that, as we plan for war, we should also plan for peace. As we plan our military actions we should also plan to bring humanitarian aid to the suffering people of Afghanistan. That aid should be brought in as soon as the conflict is over or perhaps, if our troops enter the country, they should bring food and medicine and warm clothing right along with their guns and ammunition. There could be no better way to demonstrate that our war is not against

Muslims, or the people of Afghanistan, but just against terrorism.

Please write to the President. Urge him to make plans for peace even while he is making plans for war. ###



Refugees Need Food AND Schools

by Adrienne Lauby

Since Sept 11, the media has shown us many images of fleeing Afghan refugees. In every picture at least one woman is moving past the camera covered from head to toe by heavy black cloth. It's hard to believe that, prior to two decades of Civil War and five years of Taliban control, women in Afghanistan were educated and employed. Fifty percent of the students and sixty percent of the teachers at Kabul University were women. Seventy percent of schoolteachers, fifty percent of civilian government workers, and forty percent of doctors in Kabul were women.

As I write this, the United Nations Commission for Refugees is preparing two hundred camps for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The refugees will come through mine fields, walking past fruit trees shriveled by three years without rain. The fleeing women have been subjected to gender specific human rights abuses, such as rape and sexual assault, forced marriage and prostitution. Maternal mortality in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world. Food, clean water and medical supplies are a high priority.

For women, there is another priority—education. In Afghanistan, education for girls over eight is forbidden and a woman who defied Taliban orders to run a home school for girls was killed in front of her family and friends.

As I write this, U.S. special operations forces and aircraft carriers are headed toward Afghanistan. They will likely target the Taliban. Their allies in the region, the Northern Alliance and Pakistan government, are nearly as oppressive to women. The United Nations

Continued on page 15

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Support Increased Ryan White CARE Act Funding

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

AIDS is a disease that predominately kills Americans in the prime of their life. Half of the 40,000 new infections each year occur in individuals below the age of 25. In 1998 alone, close to one million years of potential life was lost due to the fact so many young people lost their lives. While other diseases may cause more deaths, AIDS often kills some of the youngest, most productive members of our society. It is estimated that the median age at time of infection is now 25 years, and that one out of every four HIV positive Americans became infected when they were 21 years old or younger.

The Ryan White CARE Act has been a key tool in providing federal funding to fight the war on AIDS. Yet, the President's latest budget proposal requests no increase in funding for the Ryan White CARE Act.

This is the first time in the 10-year history of the CARE Act that an Administration has failed to recommend increased funding. Many CARE Act programs, including the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs in many states, are already facing shortfalls this year. Level funding next year guarantees a loss of services for hundreds of thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. In addition, funding for global HIV/AIDS programs to address the needs of tens of millions of infected and at-risk individuals in under resourced countries is grossly inadequate and must be increased in final funding legislation.

Without funding increases, federal HIV/AIDS programs will be unable to meet the growing needs of people living with HIV for care and treatment, prevention, and housing services. For many of the people who rely on these programs, the loss of services could be the difference between safe housing and homelessness, quality care and loss of medical services, or life and death itself.

Please write to your member of the House of Representatives. Please urge him or her to support significant funding increases for the Ryan White Care Act in the budget approved by Congress this year. ###

October Legislative Update

The legislature was required to finish its work no later than September 14. Any bills not passed by that date died, at least for this year. The Governor has until October 14 to decide what action to take on the bills sent to him. He can sign them, veto them, or let them become law without his signature. I am happy to report that a large number of the bills supported by Lambda Letters were sent to the Governor.

You may also see a statement in the list below that the bill is a two-year bill. That means the bill has been dropped for this year but may be taken up by the bill's author again next year. If so, it would start where it left off. It would not have to start the whole legislative process all over again.

The following list shows the status of the bills we have been following as of late September.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 142 (Stuart Richman, R-Granada Hills)

Purpose: To prohibit healthcare plans from forcing physicians to pay the cost of certain healthcare services.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 276 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To extend to two-years a limitation to issue accusations of violations of the right to be free from violence, intimidation, or threats of intimidation, including for persons claimed to be aggrieved by HIV discrimination.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support, requesting addition of gender to the list of prohibited bases of intimidation.

AB 916 (Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To expand the existing requirement for school-based AIDS prevention instruction to include instruction on sexually transmitted infection.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 937 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)

Purpose: To require every healthcare service plan that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses to

develop a plan that provides adequate compensation for the reimbursement of providers for the treatment of enrollees infected with HIV. Would require the Department of Health Services to do the same for payment of those who care for Medi-Cal recipients infected with HIV.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1263 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow the state to establish a rapid HIV testing process at designated sites. Test results would be made available to the person in the same appointment at which the test was done.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1292 (Dion Aroner, D-Berkeley)

Purpose: To allow people to purchase and possess intravenous needles and syringes without a prescription. Requires that pharmacies provide purchasers with information regarding safe disposal of syringes.

Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 187 (John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health to establish and maintain a voluntary program for the issuance of registry identification cards to qualified medical marijuana patients, and to establish procedures under which a patient with the card could use marijuana for medical purposes. NOTE: A recent US Supreme Court decision stated that, in spite of Proposition 215, a person may be prosecuted under federal law for possession of marijuana. The court said medical necessity does not justify possession. So signing up for a marijuana registry card may be signing a confession to violation of federal law.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Oppose.

SB 446 (John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require that a healthcare plan or contract may not exclude from coverage any vaccine for AIDS that is approved and recommended by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

See Copies of State Bills

View any state bill listed here by going to the
Lambda Letters Project Web site!

Go to www.lambdaleters.org and click on the Legislative Update button. Click on the bill number you're interested in and choose "HTML" to view it.

SB 622 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To allow the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition branch of the State Department of Health Services to issue grants to local entities to provide certain dental services and information.

Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 26. Hearing cancelled at author's request. The bill is dead, at least for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues

AB 25 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow opposite-gender senior citizen couples to register as domestic partners if one of them is over 62 (currently both must be over 62); allow people to make medical decisions for their partners under certain circumstances; require certain insurers to offer domestic partner coverage in their group health or disability plans; require many employers to allow employees time off to care for a sick domestic partner; require that a domestic partner be given preference when conservatorship is being considered for a person; add domestic partners to the statutory will form; remove the income tax liability for employer-provided domestic partner health insurance; allow people to receive unemployment insurance, under certain circumstances, when they quit a job to follow a domestic partner. The bill reverses the feature of AB 26, passed in 1999, which allows state and local governments to offer health insurance to the domestic partners of their retirees, but which terminates the insurance for the partner if the retiree dies first.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 64 (Elaine Alquist, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To provide a state income tax deduction for the premiums paid by a taxpayer for long-term care insurance on the taxpayer and his or her spouse and

dependents. Alquist may add domestic partners to the bill at the request of Lambda Letters.

Status: Died in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

LLP Position: Support if domestic partners are added alongside spouse.

AB 79 (Sally Havice, D-Cerritos)

Purpose: To require the State Board Education to develop model plans for protecting the safety of students against bullying by their classmates (a big problem for queer youth) and plans for conflict resolution which local school districts may adopt.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 194 (John Longville, D-San Bernardino)

Purpose: To clarify the process to be used by California courts when certain postoperative transsexuals request legal recognition of their new sex.

Status: Vetoed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is the bill's sponsor.

AB 1193 (Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To provide that an insurer issuing policies protecting against certain residential, liability, and commercial risks may not cancel or refuse to renew a policy solely on the basis that one or more claims have been made against the policy, during the previous 60 months for a loss that is the result of a hate crime committed against a church, nonprofit or a related entity. Would require insurance companies to report these claims to the State Insurance Commissioner under certain circumstances. Bill is now supported by the insurance industry.

Status: Signed by the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1278 (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To make a number of technical but helpful changes to the laws regarding probate and regarding healthcare decision-makers when the patient is unable to make decisions for him- or herself. Specifically permits a domestic partner to make healthcare decisions for a patient in a facility that employs the domestic partner, as long as the partner is not the supervising healthcare provider for the patient.

Status: Signed by the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1326 (Denis Mountjoy, R-Arcadia)

Purpose: To prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in public education.

Status: Assigned to Assembly Education Committee. Hearing cancelled at request of author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1338 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)

Purpose: To establish a legal entity called a civil union, similar to that established in Vermont. Allows two adults to enter a civil union. Does not require that they be of opposite sexes. Declares that the rights and responsibilities of those who enter a civil union shall be the same as for those who get married.

Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1395 (Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield)

Purpose: To provide funding for counseling of adoptive parents and children, including issues that arise during the adoptive child's adolescence.


Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Watch.

AB 1649 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people.

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Dropped by the author at the request of the governor. The bill may be taken up again next year. If so it will start where it left off this year. Its first committee would be the Senate Appropriations Committee. Goldberg reports that the governor has offered to encourage the



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development of regulations by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing that would do much of what AB 1649 was intended to do.

LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is a sponsor of the bill.

SB 143 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Attorney General to provide grants to community-based hate violence prevention and response networks.

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 144 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Attorney General to establish, operate, and publicize a toll-free telephone number and a Web site to allow victims and witnesses to report hate crimes.

Status: Failed in Senate Public Safety Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 381 (Wesley Chesbro, D-Arcata)

Purpose: Current law requires city and county Human Relations Commissions to promote mutual understanding and respect of certain groups in society. This bill adds certain groups to the groups listed in current law. The new list includes people of all sexual orientations, but does not include people of all gender identities. We have asked Senator Chesbro to add gender identity to the list. At the request of Lambda Letters, gender has been added to this bill.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1049 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: To provide that in San Mateo County, subject to the approval of the board of supervisors, death benefits and survivor's allowances may be pay-

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able to a member's surviving domestic partner, as specified.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1121 (Bob Margett, R-Arcadia)

Purpose: To provide a tax credit of 40 percent, subject to federal income tax laws, for corporations that hire qualified state disability insurance recipients, including individuals with HIV and AIDS. Also to provide extended unemployment compensation disability insurance for an additional 26 times an individual's weekly benefit amount to complete approved job training or occupational rehabilitation, as specified.

Status: Made a two-year bill. It will not be acted upon until next year because the energy crisis is draining the state's financial reserves. Bill will be reconsidered next year once the state's financial picture is clearer.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 5 (Thomas Calderon, D-Montebello)

Purpose: To prohibit an insurer from refusing to issue or renew insurance on a private passenger car solely on the basis of a consumer credit report.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Insurance Committee. Dropped by the author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 8 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow the state to make grants and loans of up to \$55,000 for reconstruction of commercial and industrial buildings in certain downtown areas, when the buildings will provide low-cost rental housing.

Status: Passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 14 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To state the intent of the Legislature to examine the state school facilities program to ensure



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that allocation formulas reflect the current and future needs for public kindergarten to 12th grade and to examine and assess the needs of the higher educational system, including funding distributions.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Education Committee. Held in the Senate Education Committee without recommendation. It is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Neutral.

AB 32 (Keith Richman, R—Chatsworth)

Purpose: To create the Cal-Health program, which would provide coordination of the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs. The bill would authorize providers to screen and temporarily enroll individuals in Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program at the time the person is provided with medical care, and would require full reimbursement of the provider for services covered under those programs. The bill would require licensed hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities to inform individuals about Cal-Health, and in the case of urgent or emergency services, the bill would require that individuals be informed about the program and be given an opportunity to apply after services have been rendered. The bill would expand eligibility under the Medi-Cal program to adults with family incomes at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and would require the state to apply to the federal government for waivers to allow federal funds to be used in that regard.

Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee as a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 39 (Helen Thomson, D—Woodland)



Purpose: To allow a tax credit, under certain circumstances, to small employers who pay all or part of the cost of health insurance for their employees.

Status: Referred to Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 42 (Howard Wayne, D—San Diego)

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Purpose: To establish a state-funded colorectal cancer screening program to be provided to uninsured or underinsured persons, over the age of 50 and with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Status: Held in the Senate Inactive File as a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 48 (Carl Washington, D—Paramount)

Purpose: To require the state to implement a three-year demonstration project to make grants to eligible alcohol and drug integrated treatment services networks, as defined, in certain counties.

Status: Bill is being amended to specify that funding will come from general funds of the state. Approved Failed passage in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 51 (Kevin Shelley, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require schools to notify parent or guardians when lead is found in the paint in schools.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee as a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 59 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To expand eligibility of children in low-income families for health insurance coverage through the Healthy Families Program. Children are eligible if they are receiving food stamps or participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Head Start; or the federal school lunch program. The bill requires new procedures to encourage enrollment in the Healthy Families Program.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 108 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D—Duncan Mills)

Purpose: To require the state to issue a pharmacy license to authorize the operation of a pharmacy located on the land of a recognized Indian tribe without a pharmacist licensed under California's pharmacy law subject to certain conditions, which would include a requirement for any pharmacist employed by the pharmacy to possess a license to practice pharmacy issued by another state or territory of the United States. It is often difficult to find pharmacists willing to work on

Indian reservations. Most other states recognize each others' pharmacy licenses. Only Florida and California do not. Allowing pharmacists with licenses from other states to work on Indian reservations increases the pool of candidates and increases the chance of finding someone qualified who is willing to work on the reservation.

Status: Assembly Health Committee Chair refused to let the bill be heard because of opposition from California Board of Pharmacy and the Pharmacy industry. Is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 114 (Carl Washington, D-Paramount)

Purpose: To provide state funds for grants to residents of cities with populations of over two million to do home repairs to bring their homes into conformance with the city's building codes.

Status: Referred to Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 127 (Marco Firebaugh, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To designate the California Police Activities League, in consultation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, to coordinate, plan, and help implement a statewide youth enrichment sports program to combat juvenile delinquency. Would make grants available to local organizations which establish such programs.

Status: Failed in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 144 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow the exclusion of the value of a car from being considered when determining whether or not a low-income person qualifies for certain publicly funded social service programs. An additional car would be excluded from consideration when more than one adult lives in the home and at least one adult reports earned income.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 198 (Lou Correa, D-Anaheim)

Purpose: To declare legislative intent to create alternatives for Native American tribes in California to finance and develop infrastructure and public works. Many Indian reservations need considerable improvement to schools roads and other infrastructure. Alternatives,

beyond gambling casinos, are needed to finance these improvements.

Status: Has been made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 423 (Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys)

Purpose: Farm labor contractors, and the people they employ to act as farm labor contractors, must be licensed by the California Labor Commissioner. This bill requires the farm labor contractor to be sure that employees acting for them have a valid current license. It also requires farmers to determine that farm labor contractors have the necessary license before entering into a contract with them.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 503 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D-Duncan Mills)

Purpose: To establish a grant program for public schools in California to develop, expand, and strengthen dual-language education programs. These programs are taught in both English and a minority language. It allows English language-native children to become proficient in both English and another language. It allows other students to become proficient in both their native language and English.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 540 (Marco Firebaugh, D-East Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow all graduates of California high schools, under specified conditions, to pay the California resident tuition rate for attending a California public college or university. Would allow many immigrant students, who now must pay the much higher nonresident tuition, to pay the resident tuition instead.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 548 (George Runner, R-Lancaster)

Purpose: To require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and the State Department of Health Services to establish a specialty care program for persons who have had problems accessing specialty care in under served areas.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 596 (Gloria Negrete McLeod, D-Montclair)

Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to

test all inmates for hepatitis C 60 days prior to being paroled, as specified. This bill would also require inmates who test positive for the virus to complete a hepatitis C education program administered by the Department of Corrections. Would also require the department to see if an inmate, who tests positive for hepatitis, qualifies for veteran's health benefits and to inform the inmate if he or she qualifies.

Status: Referred to Assembly Public Safety Committee. Hearing cancelled at author's request. Bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 675 (Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To provide for improved due process and notification procedures involving the compassionate release of prisoners with HIV/AIDS or other diseases who have twelve months or fewer to live and who are deemed not to be a threat to the public.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 698 (Herb Wesson, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To create the Office of Immigrant Assistance in the office of the Attorney General to provide education and outreach services, as defined, to the resident

immigrant community of the state. Would also require that the information developed for these purposes be printed or broadcast in any language deemed necessary to reach immigrant communities.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 763 (Kevin Shelley, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that information and materials provided over the Internet explaining services available from a state agency, or notice of availability of materials made in electronic form consistent with use over the Internet, shall be translated into any non-English language spoken by a substantial number of people served by the agency, and also distributed through any applicable Web sites under those circumstances.

Status: Is being dropped by the author. The provisions of this bill are being added to AB 805.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 788 (Marco Firebaugh, D—East Los Angeles)

Purpose: To broaden the definition of racial profiling by state or local police. Provides for money damages from law-enforcement personnel and public agencies to victims of racial profiling. Requires state and local police forces to report traffic stops and to include data about the stops relating to possible racial profiling. Specifies that such reports not include information by which the person stopped could be identified. Would also make police officers and their agencies liable for violation of racial profiling laws.

Status: Did not make it out of the Assembly. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 800 (Herb Wesson, D—Los Angeles)

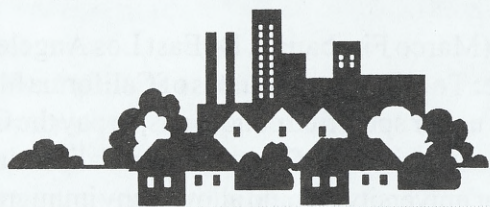
Purpose: To prohibit employers from requiring any particular language to be spoken in the workplace unless there is a business need for it.

Status: Sent by the committee chair to the floor of the Senate.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 805 (Kevin Shelley, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require each state agency that maintains a Web site to provide links on the home page of its Web site to appropriate non-English information, including information at least in Spanish and Chinese, consistent with the requirements of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act.



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Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 989 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)

Purpose: Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish programs to provide food assistance and cash assistance for noncitizens who, due to their immigration status, are not eligible for federal food stamps and for SSI/SSP benefits, and specifies that an applicant who is otherwise eligible for the program but entered the United States after August 22, 1996, and who is not otherwise exempt, shall be eligible for assistance for the period beginning on October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2001. This bill would eliminate the termination date of that period of eligibility. People in need could continue getting assistance.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee as a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1159 (Robert Pacheco, R–City of Industry)

Purpose: Recently Governor Davis line-item vetoed \$126 million from the state budget bill that was meant for the state's community colleges. That was more than one quarter of all the line-item vetoes he made.

Pacheco rewrote this bill to restore \$98 million of those cuts to those colleges. The bill is a budget bill and is to go into effect immediately if signed by the governor. For those two reasons, it requires two-thirds approval by each house of the legislature rather than a simple majority.

Status: Dropped in favor of SB 735 which does much the same as this bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1321 (Dion Aroner, D–Berkeley)

Purpose: To create the Health Utilities Board which would be charged with providing comprehensive, quality health care to all Californians and controlling health care costs through rate setting, eliminating waste and inefficiency, and achieving public accountability for meeting standards of high quality care.

Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1423 (Helen Thomson, D–Davis)

Purpose: To include licensed marriage and family therapist, and clinical social worker, services within the scope of Medi-Cal covered benefits to the extent that federal matching funds are available, including home- and community-based services approved by the Department of Health and Human Services for beneficiaries with a diagnosis of AIDS (or ARC) who require intermediate care or a higher-level of care.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

ABX13 (Roderick Wright, D–South Central Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the California Public Utilities Commission to take steps to increase participation in the CARE Program, an electric and gas payment assistance program for low-income people.

Status: Signed by Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

ACR 17 (George Nakano, D–Torrance)

Purpose: To declare February 19, 2001, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 21 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

Purpose: To require school districts to inspect all schools constructed prior to 1992 for lead hazards and to devise an appropriate abatement plan, where necessary; require the Department of Health Services to provide technical assistance; require the school district to carry out the abatement of lead hazards; and require school districts, subject to funding being made avail-



able, to provide training to maintenance workers to enable them to properly identify and abate lead hazards.

Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee as a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 30 (Wesley Chesbro, D—Arcata)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Mental Health, the Department of Finance, and the Office of the Legislative Analyst to form a workgroup to study various options to restructure mental health services and funding in California, and would require the workgroup to make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor Davis on or before January 31, 2002. People of color certainly have no more mental health problems than anyone else. However, they are among the most uninsured in the state and whatever insurance is available often has little or no mental health coverage.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support

SB 41 (Deirdre Alpert, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To require the State Librarian to allocate grants to develop Native American instructional materials for public schools.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 59 (Martha Escutia, D—Norwalk)

Purpose: To authorize demonstration projects to allow healthcare coverage for immigrants, homeless individuals, people living with HIV/AIDS, and other populations currently facing health disparities. The bill would authorize grants to healthcare providers and community-based clinics to organize into formalized networks that provide healthcare services to migrant populations as they move through the state during the year. The bill would authorize grants to establish demonstration projects that would assist healthcare providers in developing enabling programs making the targeted groups aware of the healthcare programs available to them.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support

SB 98 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Santa Monica)

Purpose: To permit certain cities and counties to contract with the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Pro-

grams, jointly, to provide specified services under the Medi-Cal program to low-income persons with a dual diagnosis of alcohol or drug addiction and serious, persistent mental illness.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 410 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Santa Monica)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from requiring employees to agree to arbitrate any claim arising under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. Would prohibit employers from firing, harassing, expelling, or otherwise discriminating against an employee for refusing to agree to such arbitration.

Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on April 17. Hearing cancelled by author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 987 (Martha Escutia, D—Norwalk)

Purpose: To require proper implementation of the previously passed Dymally-Alatorre Act. That act required state and local agencies to offer their services in languages other than English when there is a significant need. Surveys have found that many agencies are not complying with the earlier act.

Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee for a hearing on July 6. Hearing cancelled at request of author.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 4 (Patricia Bates, R—Laguna Nigel)

Purpose: The bill has been revised. Existing law requires any person convicted of specified sex offenses to register, for the rest of his or her life while residing or located within California, with the chief of police or the sheriff, as specified, and with the chief of police of a campus of the University of California, the California State University, or community college if the person is residing or located upon the campus or in any of its facilities, within five working days of coming into, or changing his or her residence or location within, any city, county, or city and county, or campus. This bill would apply these provisions to persons carrying on a vocation, as defined, and would add a provision that would require transient persons carrying on a vocation, and employees at university and college campuses, to

register and appear personally to notify the campus police department within five working days of changing his or her location or of ceasing to be enrolled or employed at the college or university.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 6 (Tony Cardenas, D—Mission Hills)

Purpose: To permit schools to establish before- and after-school enrichment programs for children, and to establish maximum grants for these programs.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 43 (Herb Wesson, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Commission on the Status of Women to evaluate the compensation and classification plans for state civil service and related employees and the employees of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and the California State University and to determine where compensation and classification inequities exist, based on comparability of the value of work. It would require the commission to report to the Legislature and the parties meeting and conferring under the Ralph C. Dills Act.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 130 (Tony Cardenas, D—Sylmar)

Purpose: To expand and reorganize a state-funded family planning program to make it a comprehensive preventive and health screening program for low-income women under 65. Would provide funding for family planning services, but specifically excludes funding for abortion-related services or advice. Current law already prohibits spending for abortions and this law leaves that provision unchanged.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Author decided to drop the bill for this year.

Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?

If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.

The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

LLP Position: Support with reservations about the abortion issue.

AB 160 (Patricia Bates, R—Laguna Niguel)

Purpose: This bill has been revised. The bill would direct the Judicial Council of California to promulgate a protocol, for adoption by local courts, to provide for coordination of all orders regarding the same persons. This bill would require that the protocol include mechanisms for communication and information sharing, as specified, and permit family or juvenile court orders to coexist with criminal court orders as long as the orders protect the safety of the parties, as specified. This bill would also require a court that modifies, extends, or terminates an order protecting a victim of violent crime from contact with the defendant to transmit that modification, extension, or termination to the law enforcement agency that entered the protective order into the Domestic Violence Restraining Order System.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 180 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To exempt from state sales tax items sold by a thrift store in support of an agency that provides hospice care to people with HIV/AIDS. This bill eliminates the ending date for the tax exemption which is in the current law. Exemption for thrift stores and cancer support were dropped from the bill because of strong opposition..

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 731 (Howard Wayne, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To clarify and strengthen the rules for enforcing restraining orders that were issued by courts outside of California.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

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SB 37 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)

Purpose: To require healthcare service plans and certain disability insurers to provide coverage for all healthcare services related to the treatment of an enrollee or insured in clinical trials for new cancer medications. The study participant must have been diagnosed with cancer.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Santa Monica)

Purpose: To require the court, when considering issuance of a protective order, to search specified records and databases to determine if the proposed subject of the order has any specified prior criminal or misdemeanor convictions or outstanding warrants, is on parole or probation, or is or was the subject of other protective or restraining orders. Would require the prosecuting attorney, in all prosecutions of certain crimes when a conviction is obtained, to cause a search to be made of specified databases, for review by the court, to determine if the defendant is the subject of any protective or restraining orders and to notify other courts of the pending prosecution. Implementation by the courts is based on courts having adequate funding.

Status: Sent to the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 217 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require counties to include the development of services to domestic violence victims in the county CalWORKS plan, and to specify services to assist victims of domestic violence to become self-sufficient. CalWORKS is a program designed to help welfare recipients return to work.

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 224 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)

Purpose: To require the department of Health Services to submit a state plan amendment to the federal Health Care Financing Administration adopting the optional categorically needy eligibility group described in the federal Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000, thereby providing breast and cervical cancer treatment under the Medi-Cal program, subject to federal financial participation. The optional categorically needy described in the federal bill are low

income people being given cancer treatment, paid for by the state, but whose circumstances do not allow the state to request matching federal funds to help cover the cost of the treatment.

Status: Dropped by the author for this year. She thinks much of this bill's purpose was accomplished through other budget trailer bills. She might take the bill up again next year to accomplish any remaining goals of the bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 927 (Martha Escutia, D—Norwalk)

Purpose: To require the appointment in domestic violence proceedings, and in other settings mandated by the court, of an interpreter for a person who is deaf or hearing-impaired as well as the appointment of a foreign language interpreter for a person not proficient in English; to require certified sign language interpreters in these proceedings; and to limit the services of foreign language interpreters to certified interpreters. The bill would provide for the waiver of fees for an interpreter for a petitioner who is not proficient in English in domestic violence proceedings, as well as for any person who appears *in forma pauperis* (with court fees waived), or for any other party pursuant to a court order. This bill would also require the Judicial Council to establish additional domestic violence training requirements for interpreters, as specified, and to conduct a public education and notification program

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 993 (Liz Figueroa, D—Fremont)

Purpose: To increase the amount of money paid by the state to child care centers for the cost of caring for low income children.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and referred to the Senate Committee on Education. Has been made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SJR 3 (Betty Karnette, D—Long Beach)

Purpose: To send a resolution to the federal executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government stating that every effort should be made at the state and federal level to protect *Roe v. Wade*.

Status: Approved by both houses, the resolution goes directly to the federal government.

LLP Position: Support. ###

Emotions & Reactions

by Lynn Dobbs

Sometimes I feel bad that I don't feel worse. But the fact is, the events on September 11, 2001 -- as horrific as they were -- don't touch me more strongly than the deaths of thousands of other people from around the globe. I listen to the words of George W. Bush and cringe. I am more afraid of him than I am any other terrorist. I don't believe the attack was by people who "hate freedom." Our foreign policies haven't been particularly favorable to "freedom" around the world. We interfere with the nations of the world in our narcissistic self-interest. And right now, we are being "led" by someone who thinks enlightenment means turning on a lamp. The President and the Attorney General of the United States speak often about the freedoms we enjoy in this country while asking congress to enact sweeping laws that will weaken our civil liberties. The US will make some violent response to the terrorist attack. And it is possible, but not probable, that some level of security will result in this war on terrorism.

Something more subtle than George the Hammer looking for a nail concerns me. Many people across the country are "taking precautions." People are sad, grieving, angry and afraid. Nothing wrong with that. It's a natural response. But the actions and inactions of many people are way out of proportion to the threat each faces.

There is a run in rural America on gas masks at military equipment stores. I really hate to break the news to folks in Alabama, but terrorists aren't going to waste their chemical weapons on you. You aren't a useful enough target. In any event, a cannister for a gas mask has a rather short shelf-life and doesn't last long in operation. The biggest question I have for those buying, though, is how do you know when to put it on? The canary trick used in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* won't work.

In Texas, the sales of guns has doubled. Bullet sales have gone up ten times. Exactly how is that is useful against terrorists?

The compassionate side of my nature is struggling with my cynic who wants to scream "Get a grip." The World Trade Center was chosen because it is a symbolic target that would have a

Women's Issue

Continued from page 3

Refugee Commission in Pakistan will be under pressure to ignore the specific needs of women. As well as basic education, these include family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, and other reproductive health services.

The Taliban is comprised of young men and boys of Afghan descent who have hardly lived in Afghan society. They were raised in refugee camps and trained in ultraconservative religious schools in Pakistan. These men grew up without women, without mothers, grandmothers, sisters and aunts. They were educated to impose their limited worldview on others, by force if necessary.

If we don't educate the women refugees of Afghanistan, we train them in something similar—despair.

Information from: www.feminist.org,
www.un.org and www.amnesty.org.
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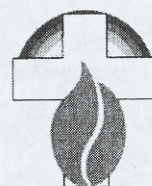
large body count. The Pentagon is a symbol of our military power.

I'm one American that won't bite the apple of precautions. I won't alter my normal activities. I won't worry when I have to get on a plane. I certainly won't change my political position on Israel, Palestine and the fate of Jerusalem. Nor will I quietly submit to the erosion of my civil liberty because of the fears of others.

Many of LLP's members have direct knowledge of truncated civil liberty. George W. Bush is playing the same game for the same stakes and, most likely,, everyone is going to lose. One definition for crazy is "doing the same thing again and again while expecting different results." I wonder what terrorists and "legitimate military forces" expect?

Roundtrip airfare to London from San Diego is very cheap right now. I trying to figure out how I can justify the cost.

Be at peace, live in joy, create justice.

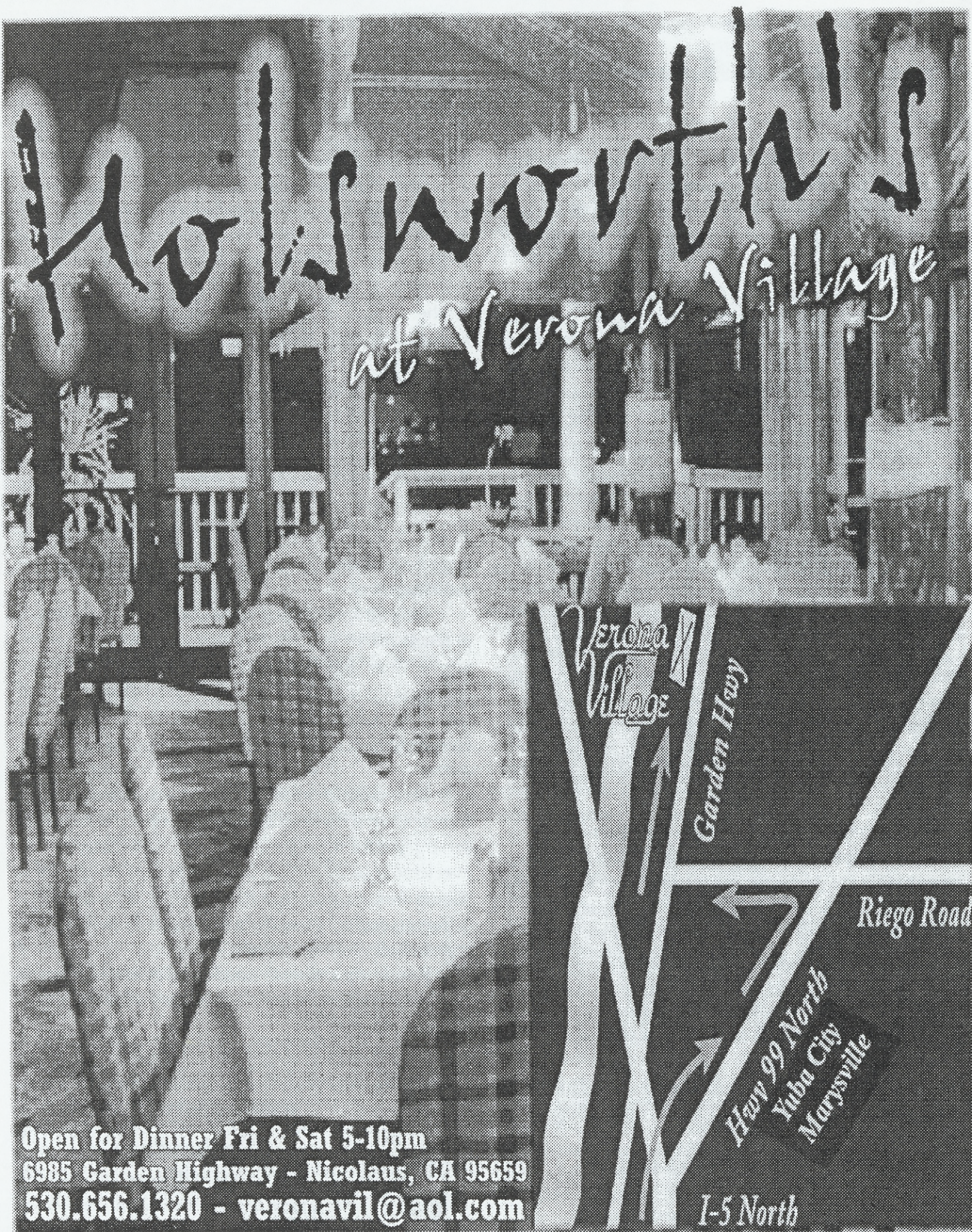


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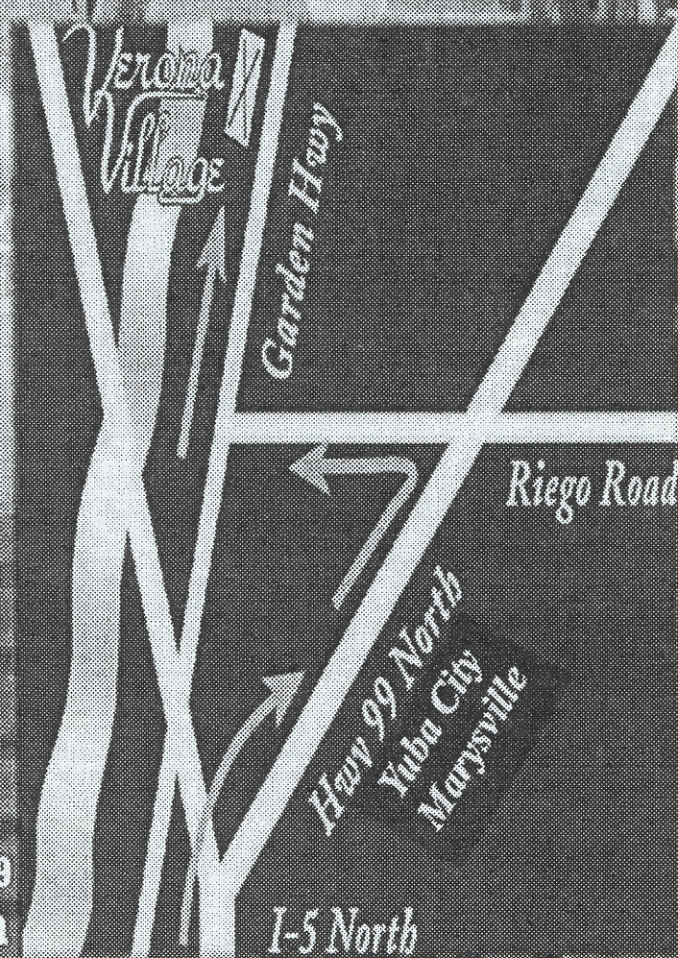
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